

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 845

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0053

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP SETS PROVISIONAL DATES
FOR SPRING RECESS

1. AT THE AD HOC GROUP MEETING OF FEB 17, BELGIAN REP
(ADRIAENSSSEN) REPORTED ON RESULTS OF HIS FEB 14
DISCUSSION WITH POLISH REP (STRULAK) CONCERNING THE
SPRING RECESS. STRULAK ACTING AS PACT SPOKESMAN STATED
THAT EASTERN REPS WERE OPPOSED TO TWO RECESSES, AT EASTER
AND THEN OVER MAY DAY, BECAUSE THIS WOULD BE EXCESSIVE.
STRULAK SAID THE EAST WANTED A RECESS THAT WOULD INCLUDE
THE COMMUNIST MAY 1 HOLIDAY, AS WELL AS MAY 9, THE DAY ON
WHICH WARSAW PACT STATES CELEBRATE THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE END OF WORLD WAR II IN EUROPE. TO PROVIDE FOR THESE
DATES AND TO ACCOMMODATE THE DESIRES OF WESTERN
REPS FOR SOME BREAK AROUND EASTER, STRULAK
PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING:

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2. DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 24, THE INFORMAL SESSION WOULD BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 24, AND THE PLENARY SESSION ON TUESDAY, MARCH 25. DURING THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THERE WOULD BE NO INFORMAL SESSION ON TUESDAY, APRIL 1. THE PLENARY SESSION WOULD BE HELD AS USUAL THAT WEEK ON THURSDAY, APRIL 3.

3. THE RECESS BETWEEN THE FIFTH AND SIXTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT EXCEED THREE WEEKS. THE CURRENT FIFTH ROUND WOULD END WITH THE PLENARY SESSION OF THURSDAY, APRIL 24. THE FIRST PLENARY OF THE SIXTH ROUND WOULD BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 15. THE PRESS WOULD BE INFORMED THAT THE TALKS WOULD BE IN RECESS FROM APRIL 28 UNTIL MAY 11.

4. AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION, THE AD HOC GROUP UNANIMOUSLY AUTHORIZED BELGIAN REP TO TELL STRULAK THAT THE ABOVE DATES WERE ACCEPTABLE ON A PROVISIONAL BASIS.

5. COMMENT - IN EARLIER DISCUSSION OF THIS TOPIC IN THE AD HOC GROUP, SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING FRG REP AND ITALIAN REP, CAME OUT FOR TWO LONG RECESSES, ONE AROUND EASTER AND ONE AROUND MAY DAY. WE OPPOSED THIS SPLIT APPROACH AS SUPERFLUOUS AND UNREASONABLE IN VIEW OF FACT THAT VIENNA TALKS HAD JUST RECONVENED. IN AN EARLIER US/UK/FRG TRILATERAL DISCUSSION, FRG REP HAD ALSO INSISTED THAT THE SIXTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS NOT COMMENCE DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 5. BEHREND'S WAS DETERMINED TO AVOID PROVIDING THE EAST A PODIUM FOR PROPAGANDA IN CONNECTING THE VIENNA TROOP REDUCTIONS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY OVER GERMANY IN WORLD WAR II. WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A SHORTER RECESS WITH THE SIXTH ROUND BEGINNING WITH THE WEEK OF MAY 5. IN VIEW OF THE COMBINED INSISTENCE OF THE EAST AND OF THE FRG THAT THERE BE NO MEETINGS DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 5, WE WENT ALONG WITH MAJORITY AND AGREED ON A PROVISIONAL BASIS TO THE PROPOSED DATES REPORTED ABOVE. DEAN

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